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REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5 and 10.

The Examiner alleged that claims 9 and 10 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Particularly, the Examiner alleged that claims 9 and 10 are drawn to the species shown in Fig. 12, which is patentably distinct from the other species described in the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 10 recites "connecting electrodes formed in external peripheral portions of the ferrite" which clearly reads on the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1. In fact, both previously examined claim 1 and claim 10 are clearly generic claims which read on all of the disclosed embodiments of the center-electrode assembly according to the present claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the election by original presentation.

In addition, since claim 1 is generic, Applicant respectfully submits that upon allowance of claim 1, non-elected claim 9 should also be allowed.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art Fig. 14 (AAPA). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Kubota et al. (U.S. 5,644,107). And claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Marusawa et al. (JP 9-294006). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A center-electrode assembly comprising:
a ferrite;
center-electrode patterns and insulating films deposited on the top surface of the ferrite;
a conductive pattern formed on the bottom surface of the ferrite;
and
connecting electrodes directly formed on margins of the ferrite;
wherein

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the connecting electrodes electrically connect the center-electrode patterns and the conductive pattern; and

said connecting electrodes are comprised of at least one of a plated conductive material, a printed conductive material, a sputtered conductive material, a vapor deposited conductive material and an applied paste conductive material formed directly on the margins of the ferrite." (emphasis added)

Claims 5 and 10 recite features and method steps that are similar to the features recited in claim 1, including the emphasized features. The features added to claims 1, 5 and 10 are discussed at page 7, lines 3-6 and page 8, lines 3-7 of the originally filed specification.

The Examiner alleged that AAPA teaches the present claimed invention including "connecting electrodes 271-273 located on the sides of the ferrite 270". Applicant respectfully disagrees.

AAPA teaches only two elements provided on the ferrite 270. Particularly, AAPA teaches only central electrodes 271-273 and a conductive pattern 276 which are directly connected to one another and are provided on the ferrite, and clearly fails to teach or suggest separate connecting electrodes which connect the center-electrode patterns with the conductive pattern. The Examiner has relied upon elements 271-273 to allegedly teach both center-electrode patterns and connecting electrodes. This is clearly improper because a single structural element taught by a prior art reference cannot be relied upon to teach two separately and distinctly claimed elements.

In addition, the portion of the center-electrode patterns 271-273 located on the sides of the ferrite 270 are merely wrapped around the sides of the ferrite, and are clearly NOT "formed directly on the margins of the ferrite" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Furthermore, the center-electrode patterns 271-273 of AAPA are specifically disclosed as being made by punching a thin metallic plate and bending the punched thin metallic plate around the ferrite 270. AAPA fails to teach or suggest that the center-electrode patterns 271-273 could or should be comprised of any other type of material,

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and certainly fails to teach or suggest connecting electrodes which are comprised of "a plated conductive material, a printed conductive material, a sputtered conductive material, a vapor deposited conductive material and an applied paste conductive material formed directly on the margins of the ferrite" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Thus, AAPA clearly fails to teach or suggest "center-electrode patterns", "a conductive pattern" and "connecting electrode patterns" which "electrically connect the center-electrode patterns and the conductive pattern" and which are "are comprised of at least one of a plated conductive material, a printed conductive material, a sputtered conductive material, a vapor deposited conductive material and an applied paste conductive material formed directly on the margins of the ferrite" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Kubota et al. is relied upon to allegedly teach electrodes 6 formed in the grooves of a device body. However, Kubota et al. is directed to an entirely different electrical device from AAPA or the present claimed invention. Particularly, Kubota et al. is directed to a multilayer electronic component which is attached to a printed circuit board, NOT a center electrode assembly for a non-reciprocal circuit device.

In addition, Kubota et al. fails to teach or suggest any center electrodes, and certainly fails to teach or suggest connecting electrodes which connect center electrodes to a conductive member. In fact, as clearly seen in Fig 1 of Kubota et al., the electrodes 12 of Kubota et al. could not be used to connect center electrodes on an upper surface of a ferrite to a conductive member on a lower surface of a ferrite because the electrodes 12 of Kubota et al. do NOT extend from the upper surface to the lower surface of the multilayer substrate 11, but rather are clearly spaced from the lower surface of the multilayer substrate 11. Thus, the Examiner has clearly failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness since the references offer no suggestion of the claimed combination. See In re Nielson, 816 F.2d 1567, 2 USPQ 2d 1525, 1528 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

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Even assuming *arguendo* that there would have been motivation to combine the teachings of Kubota et al. with AAPA, the resulting device would be inoperative since the connecting electrodes would NOT electrically connect the center electrodes to the conductive member.

Marusawa et al. is relied upon merely to teach a ground conductive pattern having gaps, and certainly fails to teach or suggest "said connecting electrodes are comprised of at least one of a plated conductive material, a printed conductive material, a sputtered conductive material, a vapor deposited conductive material and an applied paste conductive material formed directly on the margins of the ferrite" as recited in the present claimed invention. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Marusawa et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of AAPA described above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that AAPA, Kubota et al. and Marusawa et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 1, 5 and 10 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5 and 10 are allowable. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend upon claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Furthermore, since claim 1 is generic, Applicant respectfully submits that non-elected claim 9 is also allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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